

REMARKS

Claims 28-54 and 56-65 are pending in the application. By this Reply, claim 55 has been canceled and new claim 63-65 directed to the elected invention have been added. Claim 28 is independent. Claims 56-62 are withdrawn from consideration.

Foreign References Submitted

By the Examiner's request, a copy of each of the foreign references listed on the IDS filed on May 27, 2005 will be submitted shortly. Please contact the undersigned if the copies are not provided. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the IDS and return the initialed Form-1449.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph Rejection

Claims 28-55 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

These claims have been reviewed and amended to address the Examiner's concerns noted in the Office Action. For instance, "at least one foaming material" has been changed to "at least two foaming materials" in claim 28 to provide the proper antecedent basis for "between the foaming materials" recited in claim 28. The other claims noted in the Office Action have also been modified to clarify the invention. Regarding claim 38, Applicant respectfully submits that no amendment is necessary since the recited terms "a normal pressure cross-linked foaming method" and "a pressure cross-linked foaming method" are known in the art and also fully described in the specification as two examples of the process of forming the cross-linked form - see paragraph [0004] in the Substitute Specification. Other portions of the Substitute Specification also provide the detailed explanation of each of these methods. Thus, the use of the phrase "a normal pressure cross-linked foaming" is proper.

Accordingly, all claims are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection

Claims 28, 30-35, 37 and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yang (US Patent 6,192,966). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently independent claims, is respectfully traversed.

Yang is directed to forming a sunshade for an automobile as shown in Figure 1. The sunshade 100 is composed of a foamed plastic board 10, a surface layer 20 (e.g., plastic sheet) placed on the top of the plastic board 10, and a bottom layer 30 (e.g., plastic sheet) placed at the bottom of the plastic board 10. Regarding independent claim 28, the Examiner equates Yang's surface layer 20 or bottom layer 30 to Applicant's "at least one interfacing pattern". However, independent claim 28 recites, *inter alia*:

preparing at least two foaming materials...;
forming at least one interfacing pattern on a surface of at least one of the
forming materials using at least one interfacing material that prevents chemical
and physical interaction between the foaming materials; and
forming a cross-linked foam by foaming the foaming materials including
the foaming material having the interfacing pattern thereon. (emphasis added)

Yang discloses only one foaming material (plastic board 10). However, even if the Examiner alleges that Yang's plastic board 10 and the bottom layer 30 can be equated to Applicants' at least two foaming materials, Yang's surface layer 20 (equated by the Examiner as Applicant's interfacing pattern) is not formed using at least one interfacing material that prevents chemical and physical interaction between the foaming materials (i.e., between Yang's plastic board 10 and the bottom layer 30). Yang's surface layer 20 is placed on the top surface of the plastic board 10 and clearly does not and cannot prevent chemical and physical interaction between the plastic board 10 and the bottom layer 30. Therefore, Yang clearly fails to anticipate at least the above-noted features recited in independent claim 28.

Accordingly, independent claim 28 and its dependent claims (due to the dependency) are patentable over the applied reference, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based on these reasons are respectfully requested.

New Claims

New claims 63-65 directed to the elected invention are allowable at least for the same reasons that their independent claim 28 is allowable as discussed above. In the alternative, they recite additional distinguishing features of the invention. For instance, Yang does not teach or suggest the removing step as recited in claim 63. As an example, in Fig. 12 of the present application, a separated inner part 1242 derived from the first material 1211a can easily be taken out of the internally-formed surface of the cross-linked foam. Also Yang does not teach or suggest the cavity as recited in claims 64 and 65. Thus, indication of allowance of these new claims is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Since claims 29, 36 and 39-54 have not been rejected under any prior art reference, it is believed that these claims are allowable over the prior art of record. Indication of allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Reg. No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Application No. 10/536,894
Amendment dated February 14, 2007
Reply to Office Action of September 14, 2006


Docket No.: 4720-0111PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 14, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



By  #42,874

Esther H. Chong
Registration No.: 40,953
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant